



THE TESA EXPRESS

"ordinary people choosing to do extraordinary things"

TEXAS ELKS STATE ASSOCIATION
A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION

SPRING EDITION 2025



TESA STATE PRESIDENT 2024-2025 RENEA OSWALT

Happy Spring Texas Elks...

Great things continue happening across our great state! Everyday there are social media posts, news articles, radio broadcasts and TV promotions highlighting all of the great things Elks are doing in local communities while working Elk programs. My heart is happy when I think about how many lives, we touch... just because we are.... "Doing what Elks do!" I can't thank all our state chairs and committee members enough for their tireless dedication and commitment to our state. I appreciate each of you for your time and contributions and for your support to help our state shine again this year. I am also thankful for every Elk, spouse, and other supporters who also volunteer and promote programs. We could not have the same impact without all working together.

As we wrap up this year, there is so much to be proud of and I never want us to miss an opportunity to share our story and the many successes throughout the year.

Let's not forget about our Fund Drive. This year's prize is a 2025 Jeep Wrangler that we will give away at the upcoming State Convention. Remember, ticket sales go toward Sweetheart totals, so get out there and "sell... sell.... sell" so we can make lots of money for the kids. Money and tickets must be turned in by each District Sweetheart on Saturday at the State Convention in Mesquite, Texas. Let's make this a record year!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming State Conventions. I encourage all of you to make your reservations soon for this state event. All Elks and guests of Elks are encouraged to attend the Board meetings for Texas Elks Camp On Texoma (TECOT), Texas Elks Children's Services Inc (TECSI) and Texas Elks Endowment In (TEEI) on Thursday. The opening ceremony is always fun and will also be held on Thursday night. Youth Awards are on Friday night (one of my favorites), general sessions (Friday & Saturday) and the breakout learning sessions are hosted on these days as well. Attending statewide events helps us all to learn more about state programs and projects, builds stronger camaraderie across the state and allows for networking and idea sharing, which can be very beneficial to your lodge and districts.

I continue to be so PROUD to be an Elk and I am thankful for each of you and the great things we do in Texas. THANK YOU ALL FOR continuing to make a difference with youth, veteran's and supporting organizations, first responders, children with special needs and others who just need our help.

Always remember that our presence is POWERFUL and the work we do is IMPACTFUL! Keep doing extraordinary things and let's finish the year STRONG!!

TESA FURST REDNECK JOHN OSWALT



SPECIAL OFFER

**Furst Rednek
"Last Chance"
T-shirt SALE**

**\$20 Each
2 for \$30**

Size and color options will
be shared on the
Texas Elks
Facebook Page
By April 7th



Let's help our
Furst Rednek
build a new
playground at the
Texas Elks
Children's
Services Camp.



Call or Text John if you want more information!
903-407-2586

HELP US Raise Money for the KIDS!

**TEXAS ELKS
STATE ASSOCIATION**

ALONG WITH
PATTERSON

www.PATTERSONofMARSHALL.com CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM

Funding Summer Camp and Special Needs Grants for Kids

EASY TO SELL

~ Drawing ~

GRAND PRIZE

**2025 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2-DOOR
WITH POWER EQUIPMENT & HARD TOP**

(Winner responsible for all applicable taxes, title, fees and license requirements)

**Doesn't Cost
Your Lodge
Anything**

~ To Be Held ~
JUNE 7, 2025
Need not be present to win!

~ Donation ~

TICKETS \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$20

For ticket info, contact:

**Ticket Stubs
&
Money Due
June 7th**

**Sweetheart
Program**



**CAMP
gives kids
a world
of good.**

TEXAS ELKS CAMP

How many tickets has your lodge sold?

The clock is ticking, and we only have 2 months left to sell fund drive tickets.

This is a "win / win" situation for all!

Remember, each lodge receives credit for all tickets sold.

Money and ticket stubs from ALL tickets sold **MUST** be turned in by the district sweetheart on Saturday, during our state convention. - June 7th

TESA PRESIDENT -ELECT MATT WILLIAMS



Well Texas, we are closing out another local lodge year. Hopefully, we have a lot of new officers coming in. Currently, Rachel and I are on an 11 weekend stretch visiting somewhere in this great state. But it looks like I will be finishing this last half stretch by myself. We are expecting our first grand baby any day now. So Rachel is on baby watch and I am flying solo. We are both so excited. It's going to be a boy and his name is Wyatt Ridley Williams. And, yes, he will be at the upcoming state conference. Rachel and I were told by many Texas Elks that we better be bringing him. Lol!!!

We just finished up VP training in Ottine. Folks, we have a great set of VPs coming in. So everyone should be excited as we are. Looking forward to visiting Panwest, Southwest, the Sweetheart retreat, and Spring Fling where we will also be attending North Central. So happy with our Elk Year this year. Also, continuing our Elk journey next year as your State President and First Lady. Let's do this Texas.



TESA STATE SPONSOR JOHN AMEN

Greetings to all Texas Elks and families

Texas Elks have had a very busy and great Lodge year. New officers have been elected and are being installed this month and next month. I look forward to meeting the new Exalted Rulers soon.

Susan and I are looking forward to attending the annual spring fling at TECOT. I know that Steve, Sandi and the board have been working hard to ensure a great time for all attendees. We look forward to seeing you and all our friends and making new friends at this fun and exciting event scheduled for APRIL 11 12TH AND 13TH. Great things are happening at TECOT. When you attend a great time is guaranteed.

We are also looking forward to attending the TESA convention in June. Rene has had a great year and we look forward to seeing Matt's installation and we know he will do a great job also.

April 1 is fast approaching with the closing of our ability to increase our membership through initiations. However, our laws provide for a 60 day period after April 1 in which a delinquent member can cure his delinquency without having to stand for election to membership, simply by bringing his or her delinquent dues current. I look forward with great expectations of a positive year in Texas membership.

With warmest regards,

John and Susan

SPECIAL DEPUTY GRAND EXALTED RULER JOHN ATWOOD



With all the new Officers beginning their year, I thought it was a good time to bring this back.

What it Means to Wear a Red Jacket

As an Officer of your Lodge you are selected to a position of honor and prestige, but it comes with many responsibilities.

Each position requires work to fulfill its statutory obligations; these vary with the office, but all of them are vital to your Lodge.

If you are introduced in Public as an Officer of the local Elks Lodge, people who have never heard of our Order will form opinions about Elkdom based on your appearance and behavior.

As an Officer you may legally commit your Lodge to something, or be legally responsible for an action in your Lodge about which you did not even know.

The single most important thing to remember about being an Officer of an Elks Lodge is that you work for the membership – not the other way around.

It has always been presumed that before running for an elected office or accepting an appointed one that a Member was fully informed of Grand-Lodge statutory requirements, as well as District, Lodge, and State Sponsor expectations.

Sometimes the costs of these expectations are not entirely clear or are glossed-over at first. But those costs still exist and need to be evaluated before you are elected or appointed.

[continue...](#)



TESA STATE HOOP SHOOT KEITH STANLEY

We had the Southwest Region 11 Hoop Shoot contest on March 15th. It was a good weekend of fun and competition for our 6 State winners. Thank you to everyone that helped to put on this event and those that came to support all these contestants.

Here's the results.

Our 12-13 girl, Victoria Smith from the San Antonio Lodge placed 3rd.

Our 12-13 boy, Cristian Cisneros, fought hard with a tie of 24 out of 25 shots made. They had to have 3 shoot offs to break the tie. Cristian did not get a trip to Chicago this year, but he said he will work hard to come back next year and win.

Our 10-11 girl, Sydnee Miller from the Mesquite Lodge placed 3rd.

Our 10-11 boy, Brayden Miller from the Tri-Cities Lodge , placed 4th.

Our 8-9 girl, Millie Walling from the Breckenridge Lodge, placed 3rd.

Our 8-9 boy, Connor Shingleton from Arlington Lodge placed 1st shooting 22 of 25 shots and is going to Chicago for the National Finals. Connor is very excited to be a National Finalist and is looking forward to representing the State of Texas in the National Finals.

Each National finalist will receive a memory book in Chicago. It will have well wishes and congratulations from friends and family. Since Connor is now part of the Elk family, we all need to send our positive comments. You can send your well wishes, congratulations, and comments to Connor at: [Send a Hoop Shoot Greeting](#)

Scroll down to Southwest Region 11 to find Connor's Greeting link.

The comments need to be placed by Tuesday, April 1st to make the deadline for the memory book. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Hoop Shoot fans! The great thing about Hoop Shoot is that we get to work with the kids and their families of our community. The joy and thanks received over the years from this program has shed such good light on the Elks, how can we not keep growing this program.

We all should be well on the way to completing our Lodge Hoop Shoot contests with each of our District contests to be held in January. February 22nd is the date for the State Hoop Shoot contest. A BIG THANK YOU for all who have helped in the past and another BIG THANK YOU for those that will be helping with this year's event. Last year, we had over 60 volunteers to put on this event and we will need at least the same number of volunteers for this year. I have had several tell me that the Texas State Hoop Shoot is 2nd to none, and I would have to agree with them. I have been honored to take over this program a few years ago from so many talented individuals who set the framework to what it is today. Let's continue this legacy of hard work, productive work and continue to improve on this program.

Information will be coming soon on the hotel accommodations and schedule of the State Hoop Shoot contest.

TESA AWARDS MARY VETTERS

Want to show your appreciation and support for all the great things our Elks have done through the year? You can sponsor an award to be presented at this year's State Convention in June 2025.

We have very few donations so far and are in need of Lodges, PER Associations, individuals, and anyone else that would like to sponsor the awards and plaques. If you have a specific award you would like to sponsor, let me know. It takes \$50 to sponsor a plaque, \$100 to sponsor the District and State Sweetheart awards.

All donations are requested to be mailed by May 1st so there is plenty of time to get the awards ordered with the correct sponsors.

The general categories for the awards are:

Elk of the Year, Membership, All American Lodge, Americanism, Sweethearts, Red Pig, State Major Fund Drive, Elks National Foundation (Overall/Per Captia), Community Service, Lodge Bulletin, Youth Activities, Veterans Services, Vogel Awards.

All donations need to be made payable to TESA. Please send the donations to the TESA Secretary, Mike Clark, PGT, 3537 Paladin PI Fort Worth, TX 76137, identifying that it is for State Awards and Plaques.

If you are sponsoring a specific award or plaque, please send the award name and sponsoring information to Mary Vettters.

Please don't wait until the last minute to sponsor an award or plaque!

For more information or answers to questions, feel free to send me an email or give me a call: info@discounttrophiesetc.com or 940-231-6347.



Connor Shingleton from Arlington Lodge receiving award





TESA STATE VETERAN CHAIR STACY HYDRICK

Greetings fellow Elks,

The deadline is fast approaching for the May 2-4, 2025, Veterans Retreat. We only have a few spots left so get those Veteran applications to me.

The application can be found on texaselks.org under the Veterans Page.

The volunteer list is full at this time.

It is going to be another great event.

Application deadline is April 15, 2025.

If you would like more information on any of our programs or the retreat, please reach out to me at tesa.vetschair@outlook.com or call me at 817-819-9484



2025 GRAND LODGE HOUSING INFO JIM STANSBURY

2025 Texas Elks State Association Convention

The 2025 State Convention for the Texas Elks State Association Convention will be held 5 - 7 June at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Mesquite, Texas. Hotel and Convention registration is available at www.texaselks.org/conventions.

President Renea Oswalt will be letting us all know what's transpired during her year at the helm, and, I'm sure, leading the celebration of all the accomplishments of our association.

President-Elect Matt Williams will, quietly I'm sure, let us know what he's planning on doing in the 2025-2026 year. There will also be lots of training opportunities and great fellowship with fellow Elks from around the State, as well as visiting Presidents from Colorado and New Mexico.

State Convention is open to all Texas Elks. If you haven't been but would like to attend, come see what it's all about.

If you have any issues or questions, contact Jim Stansbury at (325) 374-4541 or email him at jim.stansbury52@gmail.com.

Kansas City Grand Lodge Housing

Hotel reservations must be made through the Texas Grand Lodge Housing coordinator, Jim Stansbury. The housing reservation form is available on the Texas Elks Website at www.texaselks.org/conventions. The registration deadline is June 4th but don't wait until the last minute! There are a limited number of rooms with two beds available and they will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. When you e-mail the application in, you will receive an e-mail in response stating that the reservation has been received and that a confirmation number will be sent to you when the confirmation number is received. If you've sent a housing form in and have not received a confirmation e-mail, give Jim a call.

ALL RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE THROUGH THE GRAND LODGE HOUSING COORDINATOR. DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY.

For more information or for answers to any questions you may have about Grand Lodge Housing, contact Jim Stansbury at (325) 374-4541 or TexasGrandLodgeHousing@gmail.com.

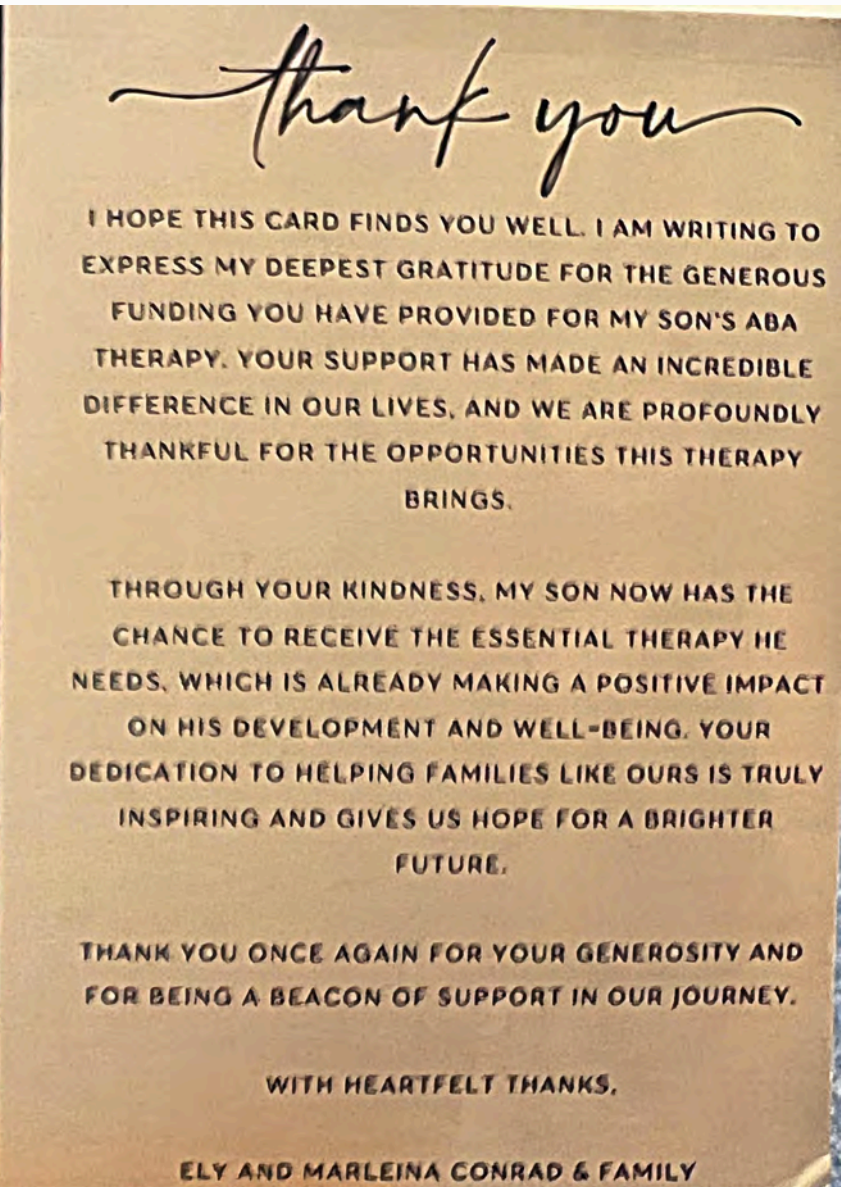




TESA RED PIG/INTERLODGE CHAIR KIM MCDERMOTT

Spring is in the air which means the TESA year is quickly coming to an end, and the district Sweethearts will be crowned in the next few weeks at their district meetings. Make that last minute push for raffles, dinners, Red Pig and Fund Drive tickets. We have a \$1 million goal to reach. Every penny and every dollar counts. Don't forget if you need Red Pig pins, I still have several left. Reward your donors. Show them you appreciate their contributions. I hope to see a Sweetheart representative from all lodges at the Sweetheart Retreat.

TECSI SPECIAL NEEDS GRANTS



TESA CHAIR GOVERNMENT RELATION BILLY BRYAN

March 14th was the last day of the Texas Legislative filing period for bills. On the House side, 6,459 were filed. On the Senate side there were 3,437 for a combined total of 9,896.

Just for fun, that averages 43 per State Representative and 110 by each Senator!

With 60 of the 140 days gone, the remaining 80 will be in high gear as these bills are assigned to committees and possibly being heard and then on to floor action if they are voted out favorably.

As for issues affecting our Lodges, we are following bills that would remove the 5-year re-application for our property tax exemptions. This would be a great one! A couple of gambling bills, a property tax bill (favorable) and one bill on preparation of food are of great interest to us at this point.

So, the work is just beginning as we will monitor the committee and floor process and be alert of amendments and have a full report at State.

Have a good Spring and see you then!



TESA STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR LOWELL "NOLEY" NEINAST

Greetings From the Membership Committee! Did Texas do it? Have we “Soared to Four” -years in a row with a gain in membership for Texas Elks? The answer to that question will be presented during the membership report at the State Convention in Mesquite. Hope to see you there.

Remember, after March 31, 2025, any delinquents will have sixty days to reinstate without having to reapply. All our members are important to our success as Elks, even delinquent members. Keep working on getting those members back in your lodges to help share your successes.

Several lodges have done an outstanding job getting new members to join their lodges during this past Elks year. Several members from every district in Texas have stepped up to the plate recruiting new members. Having started the Membership Rockstar Hall of Fame this past year, we are proud to say that we have sixty-eight Texas Elks who have achieved the goal of recruiting five or more new members. I am predicting a few more names to be added to the list before April 1, 2025. All sixty-eight of these Elks have received or will receive their Rockstar Hall of Fame Pin for 2024-2025. The Membership Committee will be honoring those individuals by having their name placed on a Membership Rockstar Hall of Fame banner which will be available for your viewing pleasure at the Texas Elks State Conference.

What’s in store for next year as far as membership goes? That can be answered by each and every Elk in the State of Texas who is proud of what we do; Members who are willing to share that pride with citizens of the community who are still waiting to be told about the Elks. There is just something special about being a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Being a Texas Elk only makes it that much better.

See you in Mesquite!



DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM BRAD RIDER

We are almost at the end of the year. With that being said, April 1, 2025 is the turn in date for all contests.. The Enrique “Kiki” Camarena award has been completed and announced.

I'd like to give out a huge **Thank you** Eric Ayles and the Galveston Lodge. Outstanding Drug Awareness Program.

I'd also like to remind all Drug Awareness District Chairs to send me their report. This helps us get funding and also gives different ideas to other lodges

In the coming year the challenge to get each lodge participating in the DAP Contest will continue!! Thanks to everyone for what you do



PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR KIRK STOREY

Connecting for a Cause

The Texas Elks State Association has a long-standing tradition of investing in benevolent programs that significantly impact countless individuals across the state. Our dedication to veterans, youth programs like the Hoop Shoot, and community service initiatives, including the renowned Texas Elks Children’s Camp, demonstrates a deep commitment to making a positive difference. In today’s digital age, a powerful tool exists to amplify the reach and impact of our organization: social media.

Social media offers unique advantages for non-profit fraternal organizations like the Texas Elks. It presents a cost-effective avenue to connect with a broad audience, bypassing traditional marketing expenses These platforms facilitate direct and immediate communication, allowing for real-time updates and engagement with both current members and the wider community. Social media also provides an invaluable platform for storytelling, enabling our Lodges to showcase the tangible impact of their benevolent programs and connect with audiences on an emotional level. Furthermore, it can effectively support fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts by providing direct calls to action and fostering a sense of community around their initiatives.

Beyond public outreach, social media holds significant potential for strengthening the bonds among existing members and fostering a deeper sense of community within the Texas Elks. Creating dedicated online spaces where members can interact, share information, and discuss topics of interest can enhance their connection to the organization. Moreover, these platforms are crucial for broadening public awareness of the Texas Elks’ diverse benevolent programs, including our support for veterans and youth, and their impactful initiatives like the Hoop Shoot and our Texas Elks Camps.

The Texas Elks already maintain a digital presence through our website and Facebook platforms. Building upon this existing foundation by integrating a robust social media strategy represents a logical and impactful next step. While the website serves as a central hub for comprehensive information, social media offers a more dynamic and personalized approach to engaging with target audiences. The two platforms should function in synergy, with social media driving traffic to the website for detailed information and the website reinforcing the association’s credibility and mission.

Contributing and promoting the Texas Elks State Association as well as your Lodge newsletter and summarizing its key content on social media platforms can effectively drive readership and increase overall engagement with this existing communication channel.

Social media can also facilitate valuable networking opportunities for members by promoting virtual meetups, mentorship programs, and information about local in-person gatherings.

#Ordinarypeopledoingextraordinarythings



LODGE OPERATIONS & TRAINING

GORDON DANIELS

Elks Lodges: Harnessing Modern Technology for Growth and Engagement

As we navigate the evolving landscape of community service and member engagement, it has become increasingly clear that standardized training modules can play a pivotal role in enhancing our operations, fostering leadership, and building a stronger sense of camaraderie among our members. With the advent of modern technology, we have an incredible opportunity to streamline our training processes and empower our lodges for the future.



Why Standardized Training Matters

Standardized training modules provide a consistent framework that ensures all members receive the same foundational knowledge, skills, and values that embody the spirit of the Elks. This consistency not only enhances the member experience but also strengthens the overall unity of our organization. Here are just a few benefits of implementing standardized training:

- 1. Consistency Across Lodges:** Standardized training ensures that no matter where members are located, they receive the same information about our history, values, and community initiatives. This shared understanding promotes a unified identity and purpose among all Elks Lodges.
- 2. Enhanced Member Engagement:** Engaging training modules that incorporate modern technology—such as interactive videos, quizzes, and virtual discussions—can keep members motivated and invested in their learning. This engagement is crucial for fostering active participation within our lodges.
- 3. Adaptability to Change:** In an ever-changing world, our training must be flexible and responsive. Standardized modules can be easily updated to reflect new initiatives, policies, or community needs, ensuring that our members are always equipped with the latest knowledge.



- 4. Streamlined Onboarding:** For new members, a standardized training module simplifies the onboarding process. By providing a clear roadmap of what it means to be an Elk, new members can quickly integrate into the lodge community and feel valued from day one.

Leveraging Modern Technology



With the rise of digital platforms, we have an array of tools at our disposal to create dynamic and interactive training experiences:

- **Online Learning Management Systems (LMS):** These platforms allow us to host training modules that members can access anytime, anywhere. This flexibility accommodates varying schedules and learning styles, ensuring that everyone can participate.
- **Webinars and Virtual Workshops:** Utilizing video conferencing tools, we can conduct live training sessions that promote interaction and discussion. This not only enhances learning but also helps build relationships among members, regardless of geographic location.
- **Mobile Applications:** Developing a dedicated mobile app for Elks training can provide members with easy access to resources, training materials, and community news, all in one place. Push notifications can keep members informed about upcoming training sessions or new modules.
- **Gamification:** Incorporating elements of gamification—such as points, badges, and leaderboards—can make training more engaging. Members will be more inclined to participate when they can track their progress and earn recognition for their achievements.

Moving Forward Together

As we embrace the potential of standardized training modules and modern technology, we are not only investing in our members but also in the future of the Elks Lodge. By equipping our members with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive, we are fostering a culture of leadership and service that will resonate throughout Elkdom.

In closing, let us remember that the strength of our organization lies in our collective hcommitment to service and fellowship. Embracing standardized training is a powerful step toward ensuring that our legacy continues to shine brightly for generations to come.



TESA SECRETARY MIKE CLARK

From the TESA Secretary's (virtual) Desk

VOUCHERS

If you are a TESA Officer or Committee Chair and have expenses that need to be reimbursed, be sure to gather your receipts and prepare your voucher for reimbursement (up to your budget) by the State Convention. Expenses incurred leading up to the convention can be submitted and paid prior to or at the convention. Expenses during the convention can be submitted shortly thereafter, as the TESA year needs to be closed out.

The latest version of the TESA voucher is on texaselks.org, along with the reimbursement policy. Electronic submission is preferred, but printed vouchers and receipts are fine as well.

TESA DUES

Soon after April 1st dues invoices for TESA dues will be sent by US Mail to all 60 Texas Lodges. Dues are \$2.50 per member and the total due is based on the Lodge's reported membership as of April 1st.

Each statement includes a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE, so TESA is paying the postage for your dues payment! If your Lodge is interested in TESTING electronic payment options, please contact me directly.

If dues are not received by the Texas Elks State Convention, it can affect Lodge members serving in TESA and District officer positions and chairs.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me.
takechargemike@me.com
817-680-1069



TESA YOUTH ACTIVITIES BRENDA FULLER

The Youth Activities Committee is looking forward to our Youth Activities Banquet at the TESA State Convention. We look forward to celebrating these bright scholars and athletes as we give them awards for their efforts. We continue to hear from our scholarship winners on how this opportunity has been life-changing for them. This is from Ryleigh Whitaker.

"I just wanted to take a minute to say thank you once again for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship you awarded me and to give you an update on my first semester of college.

I am currently majoring in Animal Science at Texas A&M University, and thanks to your consideration and generosity, I have been able to dive into numerous organizations and opportunities. I am involved in the Texas A&M Farm Bureau Club, I am a member of Saddle and Sirloin, and I was selected to represent the College of Ag and Life Science as a COALS FX member, which is a freshman leadership organization. I also serve as an Animal Science Ambassador. In this capacity I assist the Animal Science department in the recruitment of prospective students as well as serve as a resource for incoming students. Additionally, I was chosen to represent Texas A&M at the Agricultural Future of America conference earlier this fall in Kansas City, MO.

Thanks to you, I am able to further pursue extracurricular activities and work deeper into service learning projects. Next semester, my goal is to become more involved in community service and outreach projects while continuing to improve my current roles in the College of Ag and Life Sciences at Texas A&M."



Drive with Pride!

Rev up your ride with a personalized Texas Elks License Plate! Drive with flair, turn heads, and let everyone know that you're part of the vibrant Texas Elks community. Get ready to stand out, connect with fellow Elks, and proudly represent the Texas Elks in style! Proceeds goes toward our Texas Elks Children Services, Inc. (TECSI).



We are down in renewals and we need some replacement first time buyers to keep our numbers up.

[Order your license plate here!](#)

EAST DISTRICT #8520

BEAUMONT #311



The Beaumont Lodge purchased bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace in lieu of the Chinese Auction this year for our Christmas party. This bedding will be delivered along with a bed to children who have no beds. The bedding was delivered to the local SHP Director, Jack Sealey. The Beaumont Lodge has previously given the organization ENF grants, spent a day building 42 beds and has spent several Saturdays helping deliver beds. This is such a heart warming cause.

BRYAN #859



A Big Congratulations to Bryan Lodge “Rock Star Members” who received their pin and were recognized for recruiting the most members to our Bryan Elks Lodge #0859, Pic left to right, Roberto Rodriquez, David Rivera, Elma Stine, Juan Chavez

NAVASOTA #2888



Navasota Elks Lodge #2888 celebrated Valentine’s with our veterans and resident’s at Golden Creek and Navasota Nursing home today by hosting parties at both nursing homes.. It was so much fun being apart of this day. The veteran’s loved and appreciated the gifts we gave them. Thanks to the Freedom grant we were able to make this possible.



Navasota Lodge #2888 attended Commisioner’s Court and participated in the recognition of Grimes County Sheriff’s Office Sergeant Guadalupe Santana and his nomination for the Enrique Camarena award from Navasota Elks Lodge #2888. The Elks Lodge also gave a presentation on its National Drug Awareness Program and brought its mascot, Elroy the Elk, to court as a part of the presentation.



Navasota #2888 used the Beacon Grant to bless the Grimes County Rainbow Room. For those not familiar with what that is, the Rainbow Room has items for children that have been removed by CPS (child protective services). Caseworkers are able to come to this room 24 hours a day seven days a week to get items for these kids. ~ we were able to purchase \$2000 worth of items to fill their room as well as gift them with a check for \$2000 for future needs. Good job Navasota Elks!!! Friends of Grimes County Child Welfare Board

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

FORT WORTH #124



I am so proud of our team. Robert, Pete, Valerie and I built a gazebo complete with mosquito netting, blackout curtains, 2 benches and solar powered party lights. It took us 12 hours over 2 days to complete.

The following was a text message from Dr. Harris at Liberty House.
"Mr. Lee, this is Dr. Harris, I just received pictures of the beautiful Gazebo at Liberty House and I am utterly amazed at the wonderful Gazebo that you and your organization have built for our veterans. I literally have tears in my eyes, and I'm grateful that you and your team are bringing so much comfort and joy to our veterans. I don't have the words to thank you, but I do want to come to your meeting and personally thank each and everyone of you. I think you said it is the second Thursday or did you tell me it was the third Thursday of the month for your meeting. Can you please text me the information? I thought I had your website information. I am so more grateful than I can express in words". Getting our veterans to go outside to enjoy the outdoors is so paramount to their treatment."

It was funded by a Gratitude Grant funded by the ENF and generosity of Elks.
Thankyou, for your continued support
Jim Lee, veteran committee chair, Fort Worth Lodge 0124.

GRAPEVINE #2483



Grapevine Elks lodge presented snacks, childrens toys and a check for over \$2000 to the DFW USO. Thanks to our Community improvement grants and the Veterans committee we were able to support our military and their families.

STEPHENVILLE #2834



Larry Stanford, secretary of Stephenville Area Elks Lodge 2834 was presented grabd lodge membership award pin for proposing 3 or more members this current year The pin was presented by ER and PER Crystal Whitefield and PER David Jefferson



SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

SAN ANTONIO #216



We participate with the City of San Antonio in the Adopt-A-Spot, littler pick up, program. The San Antonio Elks have a section of Babcock Road, not far from the Lodge, we are responsible for keep free of littler.

On designated Saturdays we meet at the Lodge and then proceed to our area to pick up the litter. We walk up one side of the road ½ mile and come back down the other side. The city provides the trash bags, gloves and pick up grabbers. We get some good exercise, fun and fellowship with our fellow Elks and give back to our community.d the Veterans committee we were able to support our military and their families.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

MARSHALL #683



Marshall Lodge used the Spotlight Grant to support our annual Baby Shower, providing new mothers with essential items as they begin their journey with a newborn. Also made a \$100 donation to Mission Marshall to enroll all newborns in the Dolly Parton Book Club.



Support the Texas Elks Children's Camp with Endowment Certificates

The Beacon Grant was used for our annual Back to School Bash, a collaborative community event that significantly impacts children's lives. This year, we provided over 400 children with backpacks filled with school supplies and take-home lunches prepared by the lodge. Partner organizations also offered haircuts, additional supplies, socks, clothing, and hearing tests. The joy and pride on these children's faces as they head back to school are truly priceless.



Marshall Lodge utilized our Freedom Grant to supply veterans with hygiene necessities, comfort items, and mind-engaging activities. These care packages are distributed at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and our monthly 2nd Saturday free Veterans Breakfast.



Marshall Lodge used the Gratitude Grant was divided between two outstanding nonprofits: The Noonday Optimist for their Maverick Meals program, which provides weekend meals for children who might otherwise go without food, and Geaux 4 Kids, which supports children who have been removed from their homes.

TESA EXPRESS EDITOR
SHERI MCCORD



Thank you to everyone submitting items for the TESA Newsletter. I need help so I am Calling on all District PR chairs..... Please work with the lodges Public Relations committee in your district and send me an article on how the Lodges are doing the wonderful things with the ENF grants, Special Needs Children and Veterans. Brag about your Lodge with the whole state. Send me a couple of pics and an article. Also, include Lodge name and number. Let's show "ordinary people choosing to do extraordinary things!" Deadline for articles to be submitted for the SUMMER newsletter will be **JUNE 18, 2025**. Email articles to sherimc@sbcglobal.net

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Texas law requires that servers at bars and nightclubs take a course each year on how to recognize the signs of an opioid overdose and when to intervene with lifesaving measures. Visit the [TABC Education Center](#) to access this free course. Be sure to complete the certification at the end of the course to ensure you're included on TABC's records and remain compliant with the new law.

Opioid-Related Drug Overdose Course

Available for free online:





The smartphone screen shows the TABC Education Center website. The header includes the TABC logo and a search bar. The main content area is titled "TABC Education Center" and contains text about the purpose of the site. Below this, there is a section titled "Required Courses" which lists the "Opioid-Related Drug Overdose Course" as a mandatory requirement for certain permit holders. The text states: "Texas law requires the following parties to take this TABC course on opioid-related drug overdoses each year: • Mixed Beverage Permit holders and Private Club Permit holders that are not restaurants • Employees of these permit holders who are also required by the permit holder to complete TABC salesperson certification." It also mentions that TABC encourages everyone to take the course for safety reasons.

